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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 AID-05 /074 W
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R 081639Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5246
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, EFIN, JA, PA
SUBJECT: VISIT TO PARAGUAY OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC MISSION

1. OFFICIAL JAPANESE ECONOMIC MISSION HEADED BY DR. SHIGEO NAGANO VISITED PARAGUAY FOR 2 1/2 DAYS, JUNE 26-28. THE GROUP RECEIVED SPECIAL VIP TREATMENT FROM PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING AN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER.

2. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES, THE JAPANESE MISSION HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE PARAGUAYAN NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD HEADED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE UGARTE CENTURION. IN THE COURSE OF THESE LATTER MEETINGS, THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT PRESENTED THE JAPANESE GROUP WITH REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN A SERIES OF PROJECTS TOTALLING MORE THAN $120 MILLION. THE PROJECTS WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE PRESENTED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC MISSION WHICH VISITED PARAGUAY SIX MONTHS AGO. SEVERAL OF THE PROJECTS HAVE ALSO APPEARED AT
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DIFFERENT TIMES IN THE PAST AS REQUESTS TO ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS.

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3. IT WAS CLEAR FROM COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THAT THE JAPANESE MISSION HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED AND PREPARED FOR THE VISIT. DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE VARIOUS REQUESTS BY THE PARAGUAYAN OFFICIALS, THE JAPANESE LISTENED POLITELY AND PROMISED THAT THE CONCERNS OF THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER STUDY. THEY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SEVERAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE SUBMITTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

4. ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE VISIT OF THE ECONOMIC MISSION, AN INCREASE IN THE EXISTING YEN LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUND-SATELITE STATION WAS SIGNED BY THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ON THE DAY THE MISSION DEPARTED. EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE TANGIBLE RESULTS FROM THE VISIT, BASED ON THE RELATIVELY EXTENSIVE JAPANESE INVESTMENTS AND IMMIGRANT COLONIES IN THE COUNTRY, PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL SOURCES SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOME ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING, AT LEAST IN ONE OR TWO PROJECTS WHERE A TIED LOAN FOR THE SALE OF JAPANESE MACHINERY COULD BE APPLIED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASUNCI02626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-1191
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750775/aaaaconz.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO PARAGUAY OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC MISSION
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, EFIN, JA, PA, (SHIGEO NAGANO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006